



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94129

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZM-FE-U

15 AUG 1980



US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1990 North California Boulevard
Suite 202
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

ATTN: Mr. (b) (6)

Dear Mr. (b) (6)

At this point the Army has no certification or documentation on hand to ascertain that Camp Parks, California, is clear of all radiological contaminants used there over the last 30 years. Since the question periodically arises and since the Army is accordingly asked for such certification, I am looking for a means of settling the question with an assured degree of finality. Since the NRS and its ancestor, the AEC, were primarily involved with the testing activity in question, I expect that a letter for the NRC certifying the radiological health of the area may suffice. I would appreciate your assistance in providing such a letter if possible to hopefully end the continuous controversy.

If such a letter is not possible, I have been advised that the US Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency may be able to perform a survey of the terrain in question and certify that the Camp has a clean bill of health. I would appreciate your comments on the appropriateness of such a survey if that is necessary to settle the issue.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Colonel, Armor
Commanding

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : File

DATE:

OCT 20 1965

FROM : (b) (6), Radiation Specialist
Region V, Division of Compliance *RS*SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE INQUIRY MEMORANDUM
DEPT. OF THE NAVY
U. S. NAVAL RADIOLOGICAL DEFENSE LABORATORY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
LICENSE NO. 4-487-3
RELEASE OF FACILITIES

(b) (6)

During a June 1965 inspection of the subject licensed activities, the licensee disclosed that some of the buildings and areas at Camp Parks, where experiments involving radioactive materials have been conducted, had been decontaminated and released for use by the U. S. Job Corps. By letter dated August 17, 1965 the Commanding Officer notified the AEC (Division of Materials Licensing) that the identified buildings and areas at Camp Parks were being returned to an unrestricted area status. The letter listed the isotopes which had been used at the various locations and stated a survey of the buildings and areas showed no removable contamination or radiation levels above background.

On September 2, 1965 I visited the Camp Parks site for the purpose of reviewing the licensee's records of the final surveys conducted at the buildings and areas. Direct radiation and smear surveys of those sites already returned to an unrestricted area status were also made. During this visit the licensee was represented by (b) (6), Head of the Health Physics Division, and (b) (6), Physical Science Technician (health physicist at Camp Parks). (b) (6), Safety Engineer for the Job Corps., was present during a portion of the survey operation. A portion of the Camp Parks Base map showing the areas involved is attached as Exhibit I.

(b) (6) stated that the Contamination Target Complex which had been used for decontamination studies was already occupied by the Job Corps. The buildings in this area, including Nos. 533 and 570 which had been used in the experiments, were now dormitories. The land burial site near Bldg. 551 had been covered over with dirt. The principal isotopes used in this area were barium-140, lanthanum-140 and bromine-82. Some natural uranium had also been used. (b) (6) stated the last experiments conducted in this area were performed about 6 months ago.

According to (b) (6), Bldg. 880, the gymnasium, had been released to the Job Corps. with the exception of one concrete basin located at the northwest corner. The basin is enclosed with a 7 foot chain link fence. The southern half of the building was already in use by the Job Corps. The basin was not released because samples of the sludge

in the bottom showed about 2300 disintegrations per minute per gram (1×10^{-3} uc/gm) of beta-gamma activity. The water in the basin showed about 1×10^{-7} microcuries per milliliter of beta-gamma activity. Smith stated there had been no decision regarding what should be done with the activity in the basin.

That complex of buildings consisting of Nos. 730 - 735 had been surveyed but not released to the Job Corps. Building No. 730, formerly containing the offices and vehicle repair shop, is still being used for the latter function. When the new shop is finished this area will be released. The health physics office was located in Building 733. Counting samples were the only radioactive materials in Building 733. Slightly contaminated equipment was stored at times in Building 730. The licensee's initial survey disclosed a small amount of contamination on a concrete pad west of Building 730. (b) (6) stated this was residue from washing down trailers which had been used at the Nevada Test Site. The contamination was cleaned up and disposed as radioactive waste. (b) (6) All of the above areas have been surveyed by the licensee. (b) (6) stated that both smear and direct radiation surveys had been made. A review of the survey records disclosed that all results were background with the exception of the concrete pad near Building 730 and the concrete basin adjacent to Building 880. The former was decontaminated to background levels.

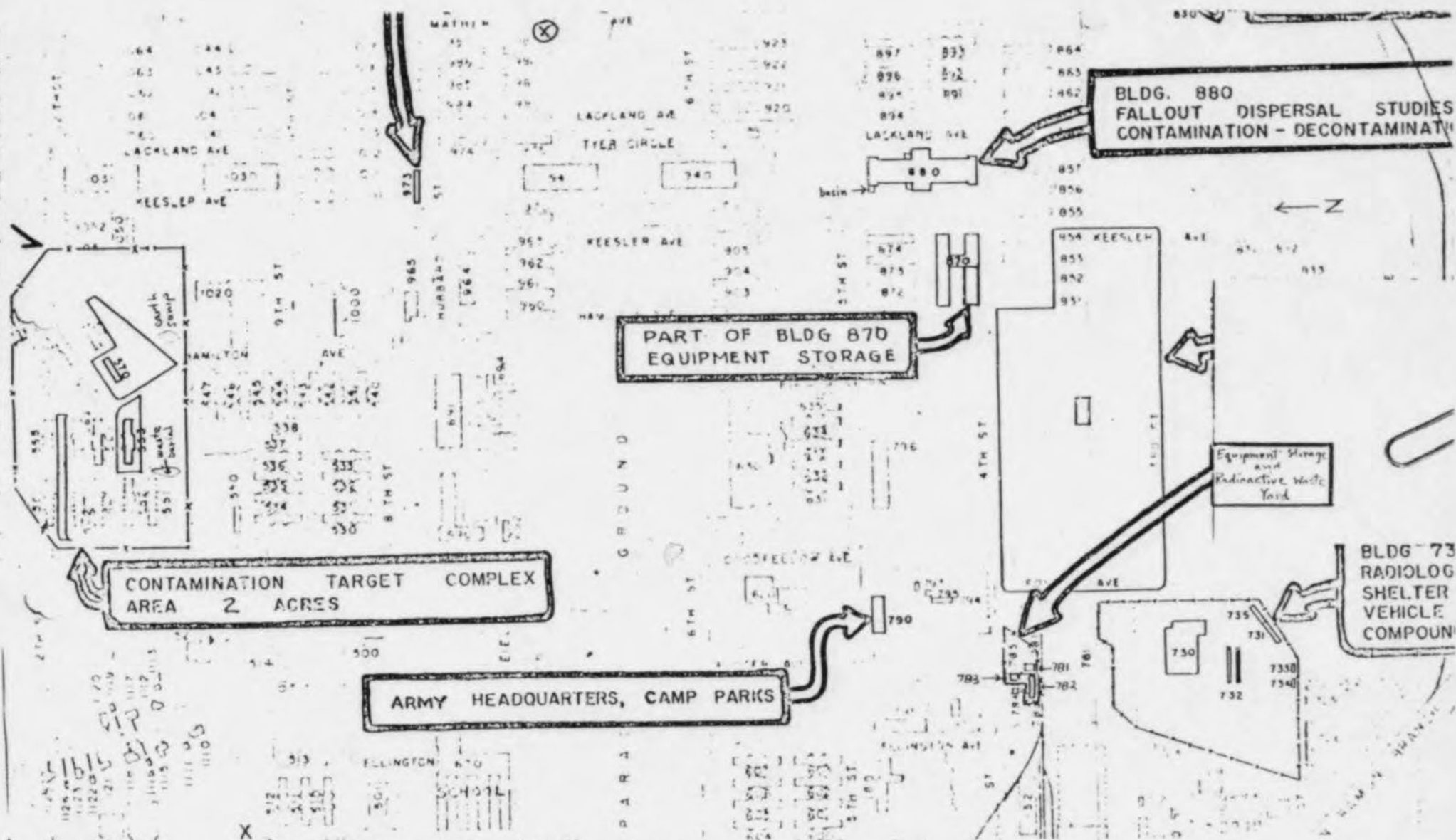
Direct reading and smear surveys were conducted in the above described areas. No direct radiation levels above background (0.02 mr/hr) were detected. All smear samples showed background with the exception of one sample showing 38 disintegrations per minute above background. Direct radiation readings were made with a CD V-700 GM survey meter, Model 6, fabricated by Anton Electronic Laboratories Inc. The smears were counted in a Nuclear Measurements Corporation Proportional Counter, Model PC-3A.

(b) (6) stated they had not yet started to clean and decontaminate the equipment storage and radioactive waste yard. He did say there was pressure from the Job Corps. to vacate this area also. For this reason they expect to start the clean-up process in the near future. This area is expected to be more difficult to decontaminate because radioactive waste, some of which contained plutonium-239, has been processed in this area.

We plan no further action with respect to those areas which have been surveyed by this office. Smith stated he would inform us when the equipment storage and radioactive waste yard has been decontaminated and surveyed. We plan to make a confirming survey of these areas subsequent to (b) (6)'s notification.

Enclosure:
Appendix A

cc: (b) (6) CO, w/encl.
(b) (6), w/encl.



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Sample no.	Total Counts	CPM	Bkgd	Net CPM
Bkgd no filter paper	252 / 15 min	<div>26 19 20</div> avg.	~ 21.7	
1		16		
2		8		
3		8		
4		12		
5		15		
6		10		
7		9		
8		9		
9		9		
10		11		
11		12		
12		15		
13		18		
14		43		
14	298/5-			
	α	1100 volts		
9		0		

